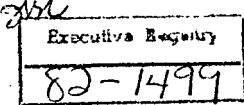




UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Under Secretary for International Trade
Washington, D.C. 20230

4 JUN 1982

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

June 3, 1982

The Honorable
William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C. 20505

Dear Bill:

I recommend that you give renewed consideration to establishing a "Competitive Analysis Center" which would examine intelligence issues on a highly selective basis as alternatives or supplements to CIA's efforts in the same areas.

You will recall that there was a time, following the A-Team/B-Team experiment in competitive analysis fostered by the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board beginning in 1975, when the concept seemed widely attractive and almost certain to take root despite arguments within the intelligence community that a new center was not necessary since existing procedures assured the opportunity for dissenting views to be aired.

Whether because this latter point of view prevailed (against the weight of evidence to the contrary), or whether the change of Administration in 1978 served to divert attention from what so many consumers of intelligence thought should be pursued, nothing happened; and I am not aware of any serious thought having been given to this proposal for some time.

I would like to see the idea rekindled and could assign someone on my staff to help develop a detailed proposal if you agree and think it appropriate.

What I would suggest is the establishment of an "Office of Strategic Trade & Technology Studies" to be located in the International Trade Administration of the Department of Commerce. We already have such a wide range of responsibility for information

Not referred to DOC. Waiver
applies.



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gathering, analysis and dissemination (e.g. trade statistics; determinations of foreign availability of dual-use items proposed for export; studies on non-market economies, etc.) that it seems a natural fit. However, the actual shape, structure, organizational connection and mission of the office are specific matters which do not require definition until after a basic judgement is made that the proposition is worth pursuing. Thus, before going much further, I'd appreciate your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lionel H. Olmer", written in a cursive style.

Lionel H. Olmer